

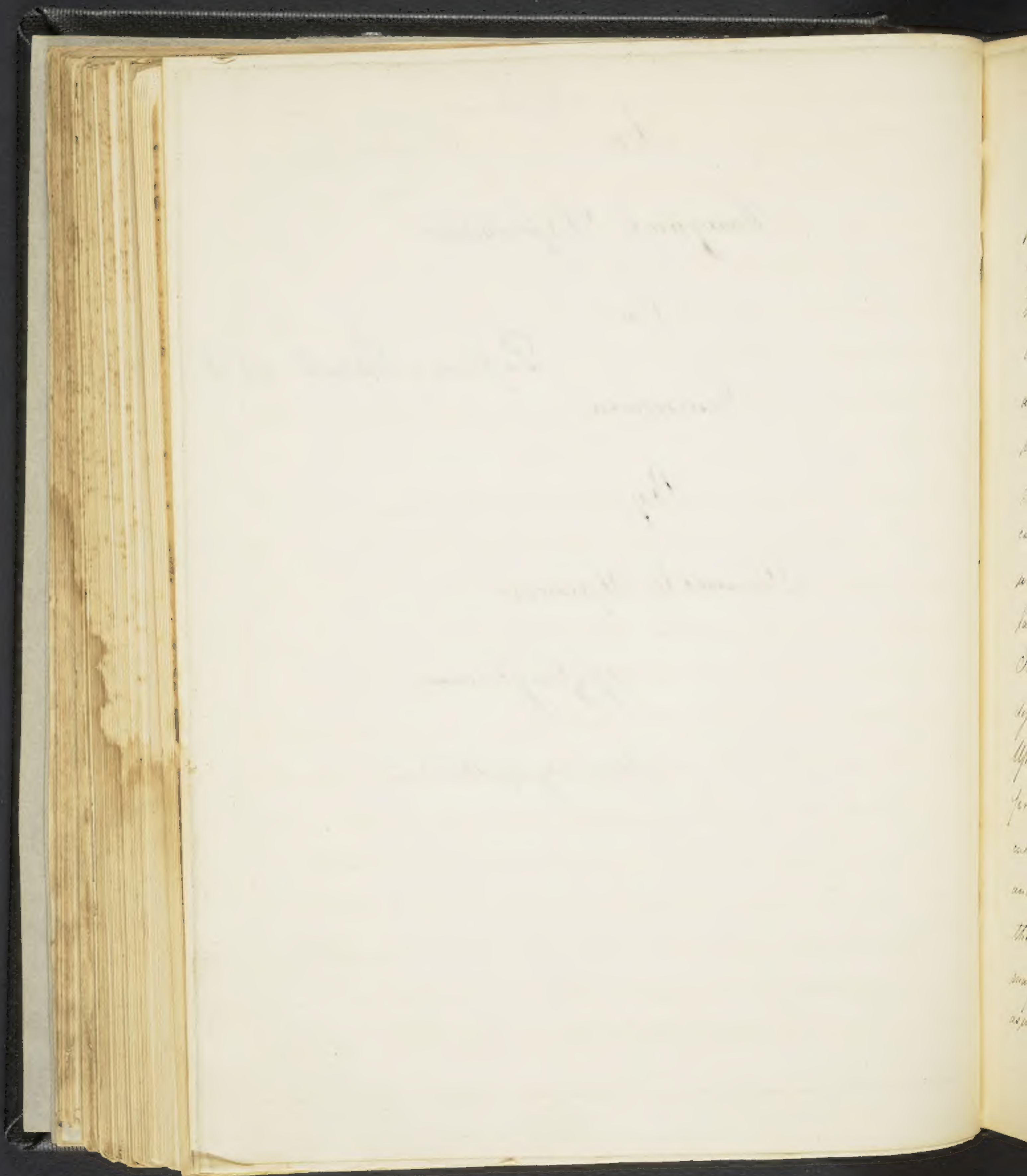
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Inaugural Dissertation

On
Gonorrhoea Passed March 1828

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Gonorrhoea. may be defined to be a puriform discharge from the urethra in males, and Vagina in females, in consequence of inflammation of the part. The term "Gonorrhoea," is improperly applied to this disease, as it implies a discharge of semen, whereas this discharge is owing to an increased secretion of the mucus lining of the internal surface of the urethra, altered in its appearance & caused by an inflammation of that part, but more especially of the Lacunae of the urethra.

It was for a long time imagined, that gonorrhoea proceeded from ulcers in the urethra, now was this opinion controverted, although many doubts were entertained of its truth, untill actual dissection proved the falsity of this ideal doctrine, and put the matter beyond dispute. Doct. Stoll, of Vienna, had an opportunity the most favourable to his wishes, of dissecting a man who had died while labouring under a virulent gonorrhoea. Upon cutting into the urethra carefully, he discovered its internal surface preternaturally red; two of the lymphatics preternaturally white, and enlarged; and the puriform matter oozing out from the internal membrane, and especially the lacunae, where the seat of the disorder was, without the least appearance of ulceration or even of excoriation. Since that time many other dissections have been made, with a view of ascertaining the cause, as well as the seat, of this disease, which all tend to prove that it is caused by



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inflammation, and seated in the internal membrane of the urethra, and particularly in the lacunae. That gonorrhoea is a local disease is fully proved, not only from dissection, but also from the method of cure, topical applications alone having been found sufficient to eradicate the affection, without the aid of Mercury or any other general remedy. Writers have divided gonorrhoea into gonorrhoea benigna or simplex, and gonorrhoea virulenta: to which a third has been added, to wit, gonorrhoea spuria. This last is a puriform discharge, which takes place from the coronal glands of the penis, between it and the prepuce. Upon gently compressing the glands, the matter, by means of a glass, may be seen issuing from it. This seldom occurs; but when it does, it is to be cured by astringent lotions. Gonorrhoea benigna or simplex, is a puriform discharge from the urethra in males, taking place without any connection with an infected person. Women are subject to a disease, which often puts on the form of gonorrhoea, and is sometimes attended with a scalding ~~pain~~ sensation upon evacuating urine. The disease I allude to is the *Gleeta alba* or whites. It, therefore, behoves a young practitioner to be upon his guard, in distinguishing between such cases, when called to them: for by an error in judgment, he might destroy, not only the character of the person, but often the peace and happiness of a whole family. If the person to whom the physician is called be of



respectable connections, and unblemished character; I conceive there could be no impropriety in terming it a *fluor albus*, even if the disease be very suspicious. This would be the more justifiable, since it has happily been found that both diseases may be cured by the same remedies, to wit, moderately astringent injections; But in most cases the two diseases may be distinguished by proper and delicate inquiry. The gonorrhoea benigna or simplex may be induced by the applications of any foreign substance to the urethra so as to produce an inflammation of its internal surface; such as acrid powders, bougies, &c. &c. This disease may be speedily cured in a few days by a moderately low diet, and the following injection:
 R. Sulph. Zinc... xvjss. Aquae font... ℥viii. Solv.

This injection should be thrown up the urethra of males, by means of a syringe, at least four or five times a day. If it produce a smarting of the part, it may be diluted with a little water; but it is necessary that it should cause a slight degree of smarting. The patient himself will be the best judge of the degree of strength by his own sensations. We come now to consider that most common form of gonorrhoea denominated gonorrhoea virulenta. Every puriform discharge from the urethra, in consequence of a connection with an infected person, is denominated gonorrhoea virulenta.



The manner in which gonorrhoea is produced, seems to me to be by the application of the infecting substance to the orifice of the urethra, or near it. And it appears probable, that in nine cases out of ten the matter of infection is lodged under the prepuce, and extends its effects from thence; and as that part is the least attended to in the practice of washing the penis, after connection with women, we may account for the reason, why we meet with some instances of the disease occurring, notwithstanding ablution had been practiced. Hence it is that practitioners recommend careful ablution of the whole penis, and especially of the prepuce and the adjoining parts, immediately after connection with a suspicious person. This disease generally makes its appearance from twenty-four hours to four days after an impure connection, although in some instances it occurs sooner and later. It is first announced to the patient by a prickling sensation in some part of the urethra, most commonly on one side of the glands penis, upon making water. In a few hours after this is felt, a slight discharge, of a puriform nature, is perceived to take place from the urethra, and now the patient begins to be troubled with a scalding pain on passing his water, which continues at every attempt for this purpose. If these first symptoms be neglected, the discharge



increases in quantity, but on a greenish line, and in some
respect becomes more abundant, the desire to make water more
frequent, and although it is much smaller in volume. The
heat and pain attending it, sometimes renders it so intolerable,
especially, that the patient breaks through the effort dis-
charge it. The discharging pain is felt in the perineum, and is
very great, & is usually painful irritation about the lower
extremities of the rectum. When the disease has arrived at this
degree, it is that the bladder becomes inflamed, & is in such
a state of pain and nearly insupportable. Frequent, but in vain
efforts are made to urinate. The urine is dark, & the bladder, on
examination is found to be inflamed with the ureter, which is a great
sufferer in these discharges & it is beyond description. The
bladder sometimes becomes sore and painful to the touch, and
the urine, & the secretion appears mixed. The discharges
is often rendered extremely violent and is usually, and more
frequent, & the patient neglects nothing, the parts very clean.
The quantity of matter discharged is the more, & the more
various in different persons. In some cases I have known
nearly two drams at a time, in most cases the quantity is less. The
discharge at first, but on a yellow or greenish, but it is on



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The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold, crisp air. It was a relief after the warm, stuffy interior. I looked up at the sky, which was a pale, hazy blue. The sun was just rising, and its light was soft and golden. I felt a sense of peace and tranquility. The world was so quiet, and I was alone. I took a deep breath and felt the air fill my lungs. It was a good feeling. I walked a few steps and then stopped. I looked back at the car and then forward. The road was straight and long. I knew I was going to have a long drive. I smiled and started the car. The engine purred and the car moved forward. I felt a sense of freedom and adventure. The world was my oyster, and I was going to make the most of it.















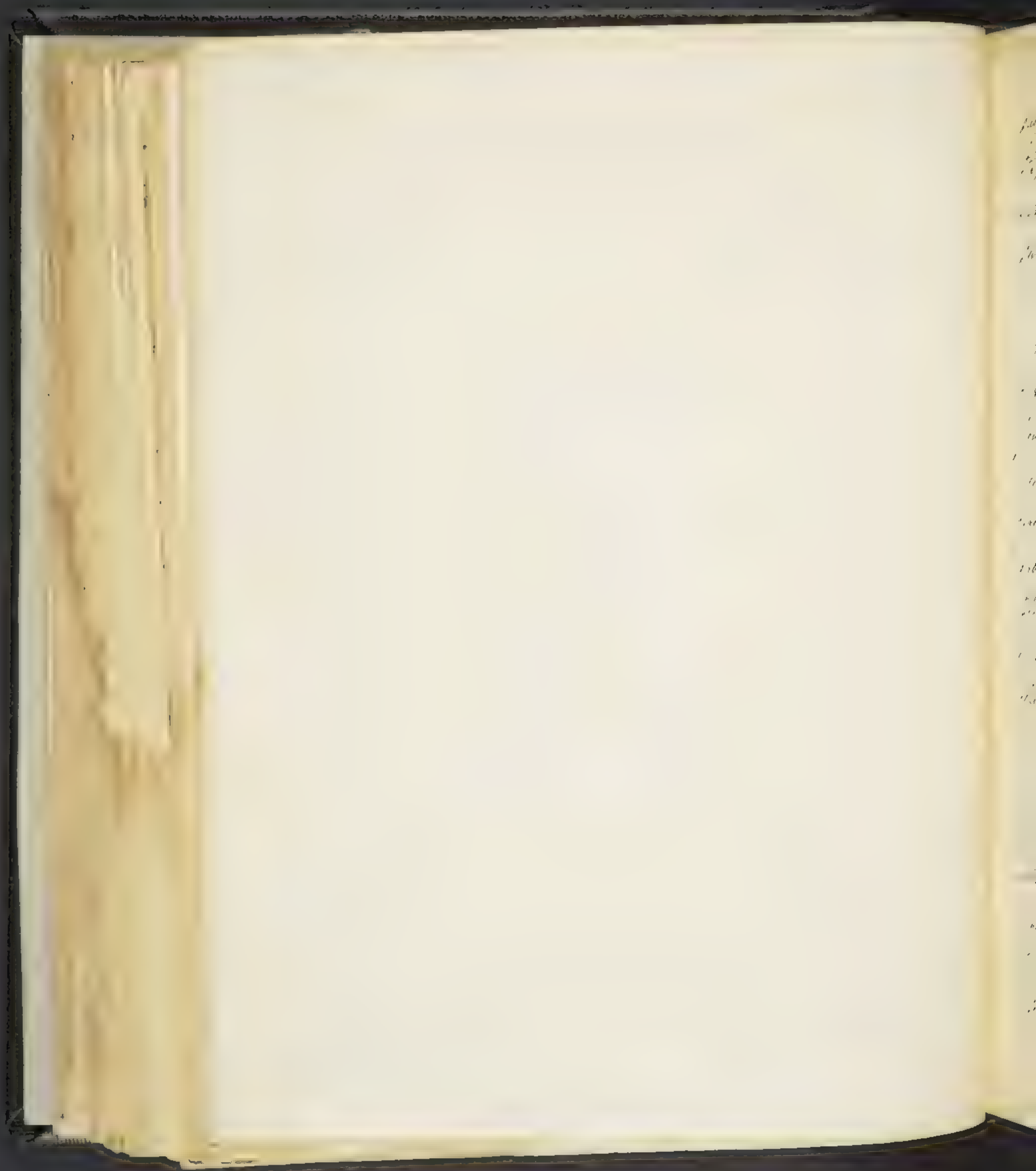
irregular, and should be avoided.

Of Swelled Testicle

It is common to be considered as that violent and serious effect of gonorrhoea, & venereal, in the swollen testicle. It produces the most excruciating torment that can be imagined, when violent in its degree; and it bears down in sufferings and expressions of anguish of the patients, to be equal to, if not surpassing, a lunge of the goat, or a jet of the gravel or stone in point of torture. This swelling is commonly confined to one testicle; but it sometimes attacks both at once, & sometimes each alternately, and sometimes the disease leaves the one & returns to the other, and in some cases the disease has acted on each in its alternation, but never at the same time. It begins in the gently dimidial first, but in a few hours the testis becomes a heated and swells to a great extent. The skin becomes red, and appears red and highly inflamed, with a serous effusion under it, and a great redness and swelling of the scrotum. It is attended with a most violent pain, & is very frequently sudden in its formation, and lastly, we are acquainted with remedies which will as suddenly relieve it. For this the case. I am fully convinced that the patient could not have mistaken it for gonorrhoea, or sometimes induces. It is attended with a retraction of the testis, & a most violent pain arising from inflammation of the spermatic cord, & the lumbar region, causing the person to bend his body forward, & to keep himself in an erect posture.







pus' cussion, fire should be advised from the first, and continued through
the whole disease. Indeed, I think that suspending the pestle upon the first
appearance of every morbid tubercle, may often be the means of curing it
itself.

(2d) Glandular Swellings of the Groins.

Swellings of the lymphatic Glands of the groins, are common in
gonorrhoea, prostatica. M. Bell, mentions a swelling of the lymphatic vessels of
the groin as a complaint, which sometimes follows gonorrhoea, and he observes that this
swelling is not dangerous to the glands of the groin, the cause of the swelling
being in that part. But whether this be the case, or that some of the matter
is absorbed by the lymphatics, and arrested in its course by those glands, I will not
say myself, to determine; but I am convinced from observation, that the disease
in the groin, is local. It is of great consequence to make a distinction between
glandular swellings of the groins from gonorrhoea, and buboes produced by the absorp-
tion of the venereal virus. When the patient is cured of the venereal disease, and
the swelling is considered as venereal. But I have not, nineteen cases out of twenty the swelling
in the groin is venereal, and is cured with mercury. I have seen many cases
in which the swelling in the groin is not venereal, and is cured by the use of the
pestle and fire. I have seen many cases in which the swelling in the groin is
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Ch. Thyrotoxis

This is an inflammation of the prostate before the glands begin, in such a degree as to amount to some swelling over the glands in the usual manner. It is induced by whatever excites a great deal of inflammation in the penis, and hence it is common in gonorrhea. I have already observed that a purulent discharge sometimes issues from the glands themselves, in the form of a morbid secretion, termed gonorrhoea striata. This, at length, by attention, becomes cured, and the cure consists in the application of the glands and urethra; and, once, by inducing inflammation is a frequent cause of return. In this constant, emollient, practices of bread & milk with sweet oil, &c. and injections have been recommended; but they should be used after the inflammation is somewhat subdued. This may be effected in most cases, by solution of the sugar of lead, &c. in water, applied by means of a syringe. Brodia's is also used in the part, but it should be used with a syringe, and it should be repeated after the inflammation has, in some measure, abated. Emollients are more serviceable. In the case of the penis in warm milk, or a decoction of lithia root, or of linseed, as proposed by Mr. Bell to be the most effectual method of applying these remedies. Heat injections of sugar of lead or white vitriol or warm milk and water should be repeated three or four times a day, by means of a syringe, between the glands and the urethra, & wash away any matter that may be collected there, and it will be cured.









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found serviceable. Mucilaginous injections thrown up the rectum, are of great benefit; especially if Opium be combined with them, Opium is of great use in these complaints, and should never be omitted.

It allays the irritation, and quickly procures ease. It may be given by the Mouth, but it is most effectual when used in the form of glyster; as it then comes more immediately in contact with the parts affected. The bowels should be kept open and free, by means of laxatives. A low diet and mucilaginous drinks, such as flax seed tea, barley water, and the like, should be ordered. By persisting in these remedies for sometime, almost every case will terminate favourably.

Mode of Prevention.

As gonorrhoea, however slight, is a loathsome disease, and when violent in its degree frequently induces such a train of painful and distressing concomitants, it has been long an object to discover some remedy for its prevention. But hitherto no specific one has been found out. Those means of prevention which have been most advantageously used are topical; and of these, the washing the parts immediately after a connection with a suspicious person, has been observed to be the most beneficial. For this purpose, cold water is as good as any thing else, and preferable, on account of the facility



with which it is obtained. The washing should be performed immediately after the connection, otherwise it frequently fails. Particular attention should be paid, not only to the exterior parts, but the prepuce should be drawn back, and the frænum and parts immediately adjoining thereto, should be thoroughly washed. It is owing to an inattention to this circumstance, that the practice of washing, often is of no service, for the matter of infection, in most instances, the disease remains in the foldings of the frænum, and communicates the disease, even after the person has performed lavation, and thinks himself secure. I have also known the practice of washing to fail, where it has been neglected for too long a time, and in one or two instances, where it has been disregarded, even for fifteen or twenty minutes. Soap and water, either warm or cold, have been used for this purpose; also, brandy, gin, or any spirituous liquors. A solution of the carbonate of pot-ash, in water, has likewise been employed; but I do not suppose any of them are preferable to simple water. The patient before washing, should always discharge his urine, this serves to wash away any matter that may be situated about the end of the Urethra.

The End —

